

November 20, 2013

Kimberly Flores
[REDACTED]

Charles Lester
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Charles Lester,

As a native Californian, it is important to me that California stays as scenic as it is now for future years to come, especially with preserving its unique beaches. I only say this because as a child I spent my days at every beach on the southern coast, you could've called me a beach bum. And I still am. Whenever I go back home, the first place I go to is the beach. I take a lot of pride in the state I was born and raised in, so I never want to see the beaches I visit go down the drain.

As we know it, climate changes are happening all over the earth and are affecting all, if not many regions causing changes that impact their environment. There has already been a climate shift near the west coast that has caused the sea level to rise and has affected marine environment. All these are coastal resources, so we must be able to protect these resources so they do not disappear. If beaches are nurtured and taken care of this problem of coastal change will not take a toll if the proper actions are taken to help.

I am aware that we cannot stop the sea level from rising, but we can slow the pace down by cutting emissions, but that is not enough. An effective action that can be taken to help is soft engineering, such as beach nourishment. Beach nourishment is an effective way to protect the backshore and at the same time provide access and a recreational beach. But it is not a permanent response; it must be maintained on a regular basis to remain effective, so establishing a committee to maintain it is key. Gathering volunteers can help with this and keeping a perched beach reduces the offshore dimension of the beach and can provide a cost-effective way to maintain the dry sand component of the beach without also building up the vast offshore portion. Secondly, keeping the sea level changes recorded and studied can also help with preparing with the changes it brings. That is why there should be people monitoring and planning for the worst in case the sea level rises at a much quicker rate than expected. It will be important that the Commission continues to be involved in studies of the California coast, coastal hazards and changes in coastal processes. Public education programs and efforts to alert coastal property owners to the dynamic and changing nature of the coast will be important. If the proper precautions are not taken, then the beautiful Californian coast, will suffer dramatically. That includes erosion, which can lead to flooding of beaches; wave attacks, and increased storm waves, which can tragically affect locals and visitors. If this climate change is not handled, not only will residents be affected, but those who reside in the water can also be. That is why the Marine Life Protection Act should always be in place and executed effectively to keep sea creatures safe at all times. It should also be revised yearly because changes happen and these policies should be updated at all times.

In order to preserve the Californian west coast, we must take precautions and inject effort to keep beaches lovely. That includes watching the sea level and taking care of the life inside the ocean. Coastal change is natural but to keep things beautiful we have to watch out for Mother Nature because sometimes it can hurt dramatically. Charles Lester I hope you can enforce and keep up with policies to maintain the coast golden.

I would greatly appreciate a response from your organization because I care about the coast just as much as you and your whole teams do too. And when I find myself living in California again, hopefully in two years, I would love to be a member of your team.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Kimberly Flores.

Kimberly Flores